

Application Serial No. 10/657,311
Amendment After Final dated December 21, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated December 14, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 2-13, 15 and 17 are pending. Claims 1, 14 and 16 have been canceled. Claims 2-13 have been allowed.

The Examiner rejected Claims 14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,886,435 to Sawai et al. The Examiner objected to Claims 15 and 17 as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but indicated that same would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

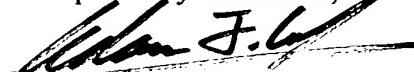
Responsive thereto, Applicants have rewritten Claims 15 and 17 in independent form to incorporate the limitations of canceled Claims 14 and 16, respectively.

It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the Official Action and reconsideration is requested. Specifically, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request allowance thereof.

In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby petition therefore and authorize that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 02-0385, Baker & Daniels.

Should the Examiner have any further questions regarding any of the foregoing, she is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 424-8000.

Respectfully submitted,



Adam F. Cox
Registration No. 46,644
Attorney for Applicants

AFC/mt

BAKER & DANIELS
111 East Wayne Street, Suite 800
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
Telephone: 260-424-8000
Facsimile: 260-460-1700

Enc. Return Postcard

CERTIFICATION OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: December 21, 2004

ADAM F. COX, REG. NO. 46,644

Name of Registered Representative



Signature

December 21, 2004

Date